THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Production of wheat during 1984-85 at 44.28 million tonnes is about 22 per cent higher than the production level of 36.31 million tonnes during 1980-81, the beginning year of Sixth Five Year Plan. During the same period, production of sugarcane, pulses and oilseeds have also increased by about 13, 15 and 40 per cent respectively.

(c) Steps taken to further increase the production of the above crops include:—

1. maximisation of productivity in irrigated areas;

2. increase in area under high yielding varieties;

3. timely and adequate supply of critical inputs including seeds, fertilisers, technology, plant protection measures, implements etc.

4. increasing the intensity for cropping double/multiple cropping and intercropping for pulses;

5. intensification of research and extension efforts;

6. bringing additional area under short duration varieties of moong, urad etc. and adoption of rhizobial culture;

7. launching of a Centrally sponsored National Oilseeds Development project in 1984-85, reorienting and integrating various oilseeds development schemes, envisaging development of location specific traditional and non-traditional oilseeds; and

8. adoption of appropriate pricing and procurement policies and adequate risk cover through crop insurance for major crops etc.

Aerial spraying to combat pyrilla

2611. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to arrange for the aerial spray of pesticides in pyrilla affected areas of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. The pyrilla pest is under control in all the crops. Hence there is no need for aerial spraying.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial assistance to water Supply Schemes under the Centrally Sponsored Programme

2612. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are villages having more than 20,000 population in Southern States of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that water supply schemes for these villages are financed by the Central Government under the Centrally sponsored programme;

(c) whether it is a fact that the villages having more than 5,000 population are notified as urban areas in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether these villages have been given financial assistance for water supply schemes under the Centrally sponsored programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Water supply is a State subject. The Central Government, however, assists the States in providing safe drinking water in the rural areas under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARP).

(c) Habitats which are notified as urban areas are outside the rural area.

(d) Central assistance under ARP is restricted to the provision of drinking water in rural areas only and what has been declared by the State Government to be an area other than a rural area, cannot be covered under the Accidented Rural Water Supply Programme.